

## MISSION VS. VISION

### COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION'S APPROACH TO CRIME PREVENTION WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Enhancing the quality of life through the prevention of crime is the primary role and goal of the Community Services Division. It is when crimes are prevented from occurring that society is best served. The term crime prevention applies to proactive efforts and measures aimed at the elimination of criminal incidents, rather than responding to them after they have occurred.

Crime is the result of the *desire* or wish to commit the crime, the *ability* or knowledge how to commit the crime and the *opportunity* to commit the crime. By removing any one of the three elements we reduce crime.

In the beginning (1985) as was addressed in the Community Services Division history the Crime Prevention Unit was created with the responsibility of directing and coordinating crime prevention activities in the City of Milwaukee. Police Officers at that time gave presentations on Neighborhood Watch programs, Personal Safety, Stranger Awareness for children, and other basic crime prevention subjects.

The Community Services crime prevention programs aimed at preventing criminalization largely focused upon youth. This strategy attempted to positively influence the *desire* to commit crimes and to steer youths in a pro-social direction; attempting to change the life course of potential offenders. Crime prevention programs included Drug Abuse Resistance Education and Training (D.A.R.E.), Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.), Families and Schools Together (FAST), Police Explorers, Jobs for Youth and Family.

Since that time, the Community Services crime prevention strategies have expanded to prevention victimization as well as criminalization. Preventing of victimization attempts to empower citizens to become less vulnerable to criminals. This strategy does not address the *desire* or the *ability* to commit crimes but instead attempts to block or reduce criminal *opportunities*. Examples include Neighborhood Watch, personal safety presentations, residential or commercial security surveys, motor vehicle and bicycle theft prevention etc. CSD provides to the public many different crime prevention topics (**See Attachment 3**) but; they are NOT the only focus of the Division. The Community Services Division also participates in special programs such as Robbery Deterrence Training, Tenant Landlord Training, CAT Program (Catch Auto Thieves), WETIP, Police Athletic League (P.A.L.); the Auxiliary and Explorer Programs, Citizens and Youth Academies, Adjunct CPR Instructors for Academy Training Staff along with other specialized initiatives and programs designed to educate, inform, and enhance the quality of life within the City of Milwaukee, and other duties deemed necessary to the overall mission of the Community Services.